AVENGERS vs X-MEN

MARVEL

VS

ROUND 12

AARON
KUBERT
DELL
MARTIN

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AVX VS

ROUND 12

THE PHOENIX FORCE WAS FRAGMENTED, ITS POWER INHABITING FIVE PROMINENT X-MEN: CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, COLOSSUS, MAGIK AND NAMOR. TOGETHER THEY USED THE PHOENIX TO HELP BRING PEACE TO HUMAN AND MUTANTKIND. BUT THE ALL-CONSUMING NATURE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE BEGAN TO CORRUPT THEM.

THE AVENGERS TURNED TO HOPE SUMMERS, THE INTENDED HOST FOR THE PHOENIX FORCE. IN THE SAFE HAVEN OF K'UN LUN, THE AVENGERS TRAINED HOPE IN THE BELIEF THAT SHE WAS THE KEY TO BRINGING AN END TO THE PHOENIX FORCE.

THE AVENGERS MANAGED TO DEFEAT COLOSSUS, MAGIK AND NAMOR, BUT THEIR PORTIONS OF THE PHOENIX FORCE WENT TO CYCLOPS AND EMMA. CYCLOPS TURNED ON EMMA TO TAKE HER POWER, BUT THE FULL PHOENIX FORCE OVERWHELMED HIM. HE KILLED PROFESSOR XAVIER AND IN DOING SO BECAME THE DARK PHOENIX.

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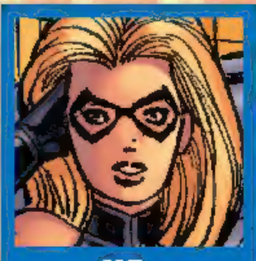
AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

IRON MAN

THOR

HAWKEYE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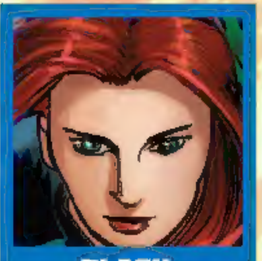
SPIDER-MAN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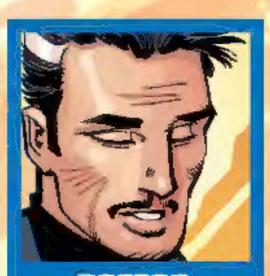
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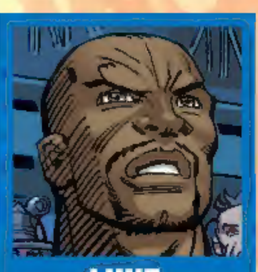
SPIDER-WOMAN

RED HULK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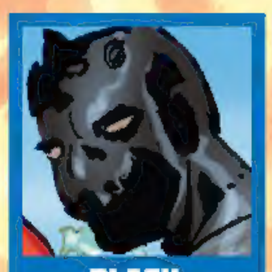
THING

GIANT-MAN

IRON FIST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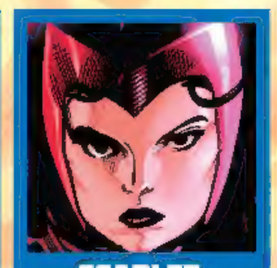
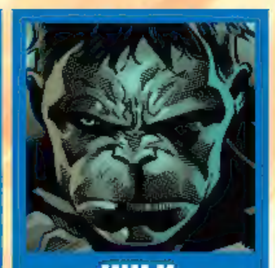

SCARLET WITCH


HULK

NOVA

THE PHOENIX FIVE

CYCLOPS

EMMA FROST

COLOSSUS

MAGIK

NAMOR

PROFESSOR X

WOLVERINE

BEAST

HOPE

MAGNETO

PIXIE

GAMBIT

ROGUE

ICEMAN

ANGEL

HAVOK

STORM

RACHEL SUMMERS

STEPFORD CUCKOOS

X-MEN

"ONCE UPON A TIME, THE *SCARLET WITCH* SAID...

"'*NO MORE MUTANTS.*'

"AND JUST LIKE THAT, *MILLIONS* OF MUTANTS LOST THEIR POWERS. ALMOST ALL OF THEM.

"SHE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN HER RIGHT MIND WHEN SHE SAID IT, BUT STILL, IT WAS *WANDA'S* POWER THAT MADE IT HAPPEN. HER *CHAOS-MAGIC* REWROTE THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.

"SUDDENLY MUTANTS LOOKED TO BE ON THE FAST-TRACK TO *EXTINCTION.*

"ENTER THEIR OLD FRIEND, THE *PHOENIX.*

"AN ANCIENT COSMIC ENTITY. A FORCE OF DESTRUCTION AND REBIRTH. ONE WE BARELY UNDERSTAND. ONE THAT HAS SHOWN A REPEATED INTEREST IN EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION.

"NOW HERE'S WHERE WE'RE OPERATING SOLELY ON CONJECTURE. BUT IT'S MY BELIEF THAT WHEN WANDA MADE HER DECLARATION, THE PHOENIX TOOK NOTE.

"AND *HOPE* WAS BORN.

"HER COMING HERALDED WITH AN EXPLOSION OF POWER. A MESSIAH IN THE EYES OF HER PEOPLE. DESTINED, OR SO EVERYONE BELIEVES, TO SOMEDAY INHERIT THE FULL POWER OF THE PHOENIX.

"THE PRIMAL CHAOS OF WANDA'S MUTANT MAGIC. THE FIERY ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. TWO COSMIC POWERS, CAUGHT IN SOME KIND OF CRAZY CYCLE, ACTING AS CONTRARY FORCES, AS *YIN AND YANG.*

"AND ALL OF IT EMBODIED IN TWO AMAZINGLY POWERFUL WOMEN."

"WHEN WANDA SAID, 'NO MORE MUTANTS,' THE PHOENIX SAID, 'SCREW THAT...'

"'*MORE MUTANTS.*'

SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AGO.

SO THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR WEEKS NOW WITH THE BEST MINDS ON THE PLANET, HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE THE DAY, AND WE HAVE OFFICIALLY EXHAUSTED THE KNOWN LIMITS OF SCIENCE.

FOR ME, THAT'S A FIRST.

WE'VE TRIED EVERY WAY WE COULD DREAM OF TO STOP THE PHOENIX. WE COULDN'T ***DEFLECT*** IT, COULDN'T ***CONTAIN*** IT. WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE TRIED TO ***BREAK IT APART.*** WE CAN'T GO TOE TO TOE WITH IT, HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO EVEN ATTEMPT TO KILL IT, AND NO ONE AS OF YET SEEMS ABLE TO ***CONTROL*** IT.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN ABLE TO ***HURT*** IT ARE WANDA AND HOPE. TOGETHER, ***THEY'RE*** THE KEYS TO WINNING THIS BATTLE. THEY ***HAVE*** TO BE.

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL WE'VE GOT LEFT.

WHEN YOU START TALKING ABOUT YINS AND YANGS, THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SCIENCE. THAT SOUNDS LIKE ***IRON FIST*** STUFF.

IT ***IS.*** THAT'S THE OTHER BIG PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.

AS I SAID, WE EXHAUSTED THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE. SO I WAS FORCED TO LOOK BEYOND THOSE LIMITS.

HERE IN K'UN LUN, WHICH HAS ITS OWN HISTORY WITH THE PHOENIX, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO UNDERSTAND THINGS ON MORE OF A...***SPIRITUAL*** LEVEL. TO RECONCILE SCIENCE AND MYSTICISM. AND I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND IT.

IT'S A RADICAL NEW IDEA. A RATHER BREATHTAKING DISCOVERY IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

I CALL IT... "***FAITH.***"

SOON AS HE STARTS PASSIN' AROUND THE KOOL-AID, I'M OUT.

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS, TONY, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION HERE. WANDA AND HOPE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO ***WHAT*** EXACTLY?

WELL, CAP...

"...I THINK ONLY THEY CAN ANSWER THAT."

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, HOPE. WE SHOULD BE IN THERE WITH THE OTHERS. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT *US.*

THEY'RE *ALWAYS* TALKING ABOUT US. I'M SICK OF LISTENING TO THEM TALK ABOUT ME.

THIS WASN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.

I JUST HELD MY OWN AGAINST CYCLOPS. I SHOULD BE EXCITED, RIGHT? SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK?

WAS THIS REALLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR ALL THIS TIME? NOT SO I COULD SAVE MY PEOPLE, BUT SO I COULD STAND AND FIGHT *AGAINST* THEM?

THIS FIGHT WILL BE TO SAVE THE WORLD. THE PHOENIX X-MEN HAVE TO BE STOPPED. THE PATH THEY'RE ON WILL ONLY END BADLY. TRUST ME, I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THEIR CHOICES.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? YOU'RE RIGHT...

...I SHOULD BLAME *YOU.*

WAIT A SECOND...

YOU WIPED OUT THE MUTANTS! CYCLOPS STARTED DOWN THE PATH HE'S ON BECAUSE *YOU* FORCED HIS HAND!

YOU THINK I DON'T ***KNOW*** THAT? YOU THINK I DON'T HATE MYSELF EVERY DAY FOR MY PART IN THIS? BUT I CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. RIGHT NOW SHOULD BE ABOUT COMING TOGETHER TO SAVE THE--

YOU RUINED MY LIFE!

HOPE, DON'T!

I'M TELLING YOU, HOPE AND WANDA ARE THE KEY. ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET THEM TOGETHER, GET THEM ON THE ***SAME PAGE***, AND WE'RE GOOD TO...

...GO.

NOW.

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL.
THE CEREBRA ROOM. A MUTANT MONITORING COMPUTER CENTER.

THE WORST HAS HAPPENED.

CYCLOPS HAS GONE DARK PHOENIX.

WE CUCKOOS ARE TRACKING HIM AS BEST WE CAN, BUT HIS POWER IS SO...ALL-ENCOMPASSING. TENDRILS REACHING OUT...

EVERYWHERE. VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS ACROSS HALF THE GLOBE, THE OTHER HALF IN FLAMES. TIDAL WAVES, EARTHQUAKES, FIRE RAINING FROM THE SKY. HIS MIND ALL RAGE.

ALL RAGE AND WHITE HOT FLAMES. AVENGERS...

...HE'S TEARING THE ENTIRE PLANET APART.

WE'LL BE RIGHT ON TOP OF HIM IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. FOR WHATEVER GOOD THAT WILL DO US.

MY GOD. THE OCEAN IS *BURNING.*

KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME, ALL OF YOU.

THIS IS *CAPTAIN AMERICA* TO ALL TEAMS! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY LAST MINUTE SPEECHES AND NEITHER DO YOU! YOU ALL KNOW THE DRILL! IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD! *THIS* IS WHAT WE DO!

THE EARTH DOESN'T DIE ON OUR WATCH!

PARIS.

SYDNEY.

BEIJING.

SACRAMENTO.

THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

THE SKIES ABOVE THE AMAZON JUNGLE.

THE HIMALAYAS.

THE UPPER LIMITS OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

AVENGERS! TAKE HIM DOWN!

WHAM

TAKE HIM DOWN?

YOU WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE STOPPING THE SUN FROM RISING BY THROWING PEBBLES AT IT. THE PHOENIX IS BEYOND YOUR POWER.

THUNK

THIS WORLD WILL BURN, AND FROM ITS ASHES, A NEW WORLD WILL RISE. A BRAVE NEW PARADISE FORGED IN FIRE.

BUT NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.

WOOOSH

PREPARE TO BURN, AVENGERS.

THE NEW AGE OF THE PHOENIX BEGINS NOW.

WHOEVER'S ABLE, FOLLOW ME TO THE QUINJET. WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM.

STEVE...

WE HAVE NO HOPE OF FIGHTING HIM LIKE THIS. WE ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR WEIGHT-CLASS HERE.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SOLD ON MY PLAN, BUT LOOK AROUND YOU...

IT'S HAIL MARY TIME IF THERE EVER WAS ONE.

IT WILL WORK, CAPTAIN. I BELIEVE IT IN MY BONES.

IF IT *HURTS* HIM, ME AND MY BONES ARE ALL FOR IT.

DO IT.

ARMOR AT 15% POWER. THRUSTERS CHARGING. FLIGHT IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

ATTENTION ALL AVENGERS AND X-MEN, DARK PHOENIX IS CURRENTLY 30,000 FEET ABOVE TIBET. WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM BACK TO EARTH FOR OUR ONE LAST SHOT. WHO THE HELL IS STILL STANDING OUT THERE?

THIS IS *NOVA*. I'M A HEMISPHERE AWAY.

I'LL BE THERE IN A FEW SECONDS.

WHOOOM

I SEE YOUR FEAR. I SEE YOUR SECRET. YOU DON'T EVEN **BELONG** HERE, DO YOU?

CAN'T HEAR YOU! TOO BUSY KICKING YOUR ASS!

RRRR

SO MANY FOOLS.

SO MANY WASTED LIVES TO BE BURNED AWAY IN THE ALL-CONSUMING FLAMES OF THE PHOENIX.

I DON'T THINK SO.

NOTHING ELSE BURNS TODAY.

EXCEPT FOR *YOU.*

SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AGO.

STOP IT!

BREAK IT UP!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

WE'RE ON THE EVE OF A BATTLE TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WORLD, AND YOU TWO ARE FIGHTING *EACH OTHER?!* THIS IS NOT HOW AVENGERS BEHAVE!

YIN AND YANG, HUH? LOOKS LIKE YOUR FINAL PLAN STILL NEEDS SOME WORK, TONY.

DOES IT?

THIS IS WHAT THEY DID WHEN THEY WERE POINTED AT EACH OTHER.

"IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY'RE POINTED IN THE **SAME DIRECTION.**"

THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT, WANDA! THIS ALL STARTED BECAUSE OF YOU!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL, HOPE. SO WHY DID THE PHOENIX PASS YOU BY?

FOCUS YOUR RAGE. *HIT* ME.

IT'S WORKING.

WANDA'S HEX BLASTS ARE THE ONLY THING THAT TRULY HURTS HIM. AND HOPE'S MIMICKING HER POWER AND CHANNELING IT INTO A VERSION OF THE IRON FIST.

THAT'S MY GIRL.

SNIKT

JUST *HURTIN'* HIM'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT'S TIME TO PUT HIM DOWN.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS CHANGE THE WORLD.

TO SEE MY CHILDREN GROW UP TO BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN TIME-TRAVELING FREEDOM FIGHTERS. TO SEE MUTANTS ABLE TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR MORE THAN JUST FIGHTING KILLER ROBOTS.

TO USHER IN AN ERA OF PEACE.

AND I DID. I MADE MIRACLES.

BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY...I WENT OFF-TRACK.

SOMEWHERE...

PLEASE... *KILL ME.* BEFORE IT'S...

RRRRRGGHH!

GGGGRRRGGGHHH!

SCOTT...

SCOTT, THIS HAS TO STOP.

HHGGH?

SCOTT, PLEASE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M HERE NOW.

JEAN?

IT'S TIME, SCOTT. IT'S TIME TO LET GO.

JEAN, I...

I PROMISE... IT DOESN'T HURT.

FWAAASH

WE DID IT! THE PHOENIX HAS *LEFT* HIM!

HOPE, NO, LOOK AWAY!

I HEAR IT...I HEAR IT CALLING ME.

HOPE!

SEVENTY-ONE HOURS AGO.

HOPE...

I *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY. I'M TOO HOT-HEADED. TOO SHORT-TEMPERED.

IT WAS *STUPID* OF ME TO LASH OUT AT WANDA LIKE THAT. BUT I'M NOT STANDING DOWN. YOU'RE NOT KEEPING ME OUT OF THIS FIGHT.

I NEVER SAID I WAS GOING TO.

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T BEEN *WATCHING* YOU THIS ENTIRE TIME? I'VE SEEN YOU TRAIN. I KNOW HOW YOU HANDLED YOURSELF WHEN CYCLOPS ATTACKED K'UN LUN.

YES, YOU'RE FIERY, BUT YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO STAND WITH THE AVENGERS, TO LEAD YOUR PEOPLE INTO BATTLE.

NO, MY QUESTION IS ABOUT WHAT COMES *AFTER.*

I SENT GOOD PEOPLE INTO BATTLE TO FIGHT TO *PREVENT* THAT VERY THING FROM HAPPENING. ARE YOU TELLING ME NOW I SHOULD SEND THEM BACK, TO FIGHT TO MAKE SURE IT DOES? TO RISK EVERYTHING TO MAKE YOU THE PHOENIX?

I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO SEND ANYONE ANYWHERE. JUST DON'T TRY AND STOP ME.

SAY WE TAKE DOWN THE PHOENIX X-MEN. THAT POWER HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE, RIGHT? STARK TELLS ME IT CAN'T BE CONTAINED, EXCEPT IN A *HOST.*

ALL THIS STARTED BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD IT WAS COMING FOR *YOU.* WELL, WHAT IF IT STILL IS?

YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS. I GUESS MY ULTIMATE QUESTION IS...

"...WHY SHOULD *I*?"

HOPE!

I'VE GOT HER!

TONY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S ON FIRE AND SHE'S FLYING. REALLY FAST. SHE'S JUST...SHE'S...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL ALL YOUR LIFE LIKE YOU'RE DESTINED FOR SOMETHING GREAT, BUT YOU CAN NEVER QUITE GET THERE? ALMOST LIKE...

LIKE YOU'RE SOMETHING ***STRONG*** TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A WEAKLING?

I...HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN.

I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. AND IF THE PHOENIX KILLS ME, SO BE IT. I'LL GLADLY TAKE THAT BULLET IF IT MEANS THE END OF ALL THIS FIGHTING.

I GUESS AT THE END OF THE DAY, CAPTAIN, I'M JUST SICK TO DEATH OF WAITING. WAITING AROUND TO BECOME SOMETHING OR OTHER. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE...

"...I'M JUST READY TO FINALLY BE *ME.*"

SHE'S...

I'LL BE DAMNED.

TONY! WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?

SHE'S PUTTING THEM OUT, CAP.

SHE'S PUTTING OUT THE FIRES!

HEAR ME, AVENGERS AND X-MEN.

NO LONGER AM I THE WOMAN YOU KNEW.

I AM FIRE AND LIFE INCARNATE. NOW AND FOREVER...

I AM Phoenix.

NOBODY MOVE. GIVE HER A MOMENT.

THEY STUDIED HER. EVERY ONE OF THEM. LOOKING FOR THE FIRST CRACK. THE FIRST SIGN...

THAT THEIR BATTLE WASN'T OVER.

THAT THEY'D MERELY TRADED ONE DARK PHOENIX...FOR **ANOTHER.**

HOPE...

THIS HAS TO STOP.

ALL THIS POWER...THIS IS HOW IT WAS MEANT TO BE. THIS IS MY DESTINY.

I SEE WHERE THE OTHERS WENT WRONG. WHERE THEY FALTERED, I WILL NOT FAIL. I WILL BE THE **WHITE PHOENIX.** I WILL BE THE SAVIOR OF ALL--

NO...

THAT ***WASN'T*** WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN.

LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF. SEE WHAT I SEE IN YOU. THIS *IS* YOUR DESTINY, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU WERE ***BORN*** TO BE THE PHOENIX.

BUT ***NOT*** SO YOU COULD WIELD THIS POWER.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH THE STRENGTH TO *LET IT GO.*

WANDA...?

WANDA, I FEEL LIKE I'M ON FIRE.

BACK IN K'UN LUN, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME. ONCE UPON A TIME, I STARTED THIS WHOLE MESS. PLEASE...

LET ME HELP YOU ***END*** IT.

NO MORE FIRE. NO MORE FIGHTING.

NO MORE PLAYING GOD.

NO MORE PHOENIX.

WHAT WAS *THAT?* WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THE PHOENIX LIGHT JUST BLINKED OFF.

THEY MUST HAVE KILLED HER. THEY KILLED THE PHOENIX.

I DON'T THINK SO. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE...HER POWER JUST *EXPLODED,* SPREADING OUT ALL OVER THE...

OH MY GOD.

DON'T WORRY, KID. I DO THIS FOR A LIVING. JUST TRUST OLD UNCLE SPIDER-MAN AND WE'LL GET YOU--

FABOOOOOM

*MORE LIGHTS...*MORE LIGHTS ARE POPPING UP. BUT THAT MEANS...

YEAH...

"...MORE MUTANTS."

UM, HEY, GUYS, THIS IS SPIDER-MAN IN CHINA. A KID HERE JUST GREW WINGS.

IS THAT A GOOD OR BAD SIGN?

GUYS? HELLO?

WITHOUT HIS VISOR, SCOTT SUMMERS COULDN'T OPEN HIS EYES. BUT STILL SOMEHOW HE COULD SEE...

ALL THE BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.

LATER.

THERE'S A POINT PAST WHICH I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

AND THERE'S NO TV IN MY RUBY QUARTZ PRISON CELL. BUT I REMEMBER ENOUGH.

I NEARLY DESTROYED THE WORLD.

AND I KILLED CHARLES XAVIER.

YOUR LIST OF CRIMES IS RATHER LENGTHY, BUT YES, *THOSE* ARE RIGHT AT THE TOP.

XAVIER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER IS THE BEST IN ME. AS FOR THE *REST*...

I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

"I WISH YOUR FELLOW RENEGADE X-MEN FELT THE SAME.

"AT PRESENT, THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF THEM. BUT I'M SURE THEY'LL TURN UP SOMEWHERE BEFORE TOO LONG."

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

AS I SAID, *I* TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THEM BE.

YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE ORDERS ANYMORE, SUMMERS. EMMA FROST AND THE OTHERS WILL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES.

THE PHOENIX ITSELF IS AS MUCH TO BLAME AS ANYONE OR ANYTHING, I GET THAT. BUT I CAN'T HELP YOUR FRIENDS IF THEY WON'T TURN THEMSELVES IN.

I'LL TAKE ***MY*** SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THIS AS WELL.

BACK ON UTOPIA, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING: THE AVENGERS SHOULD'VE DONE MORE TO HELP MUTANTS. *I* SHOULD'VE DONE MORE. I ALLOWED THE WORLD TO HATE AND FEAR THEM FOR FAR TOO LONG.

"I WON'T MAKE THAT SAME MISTAKE AGAIN."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS THIS AGAIN? CAP'S PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW AVENGERS TEAM?

NOT EXACTLY. THIS IS SOMETHING A BIT MORE...

UNCANNY.

WELL THEN, I GUESS THIS BEGINS A *NEW AGE* FOR THE AVENGERS AND X-MEN BOTH.

DON'T YOU DARE! DON'T YOU DARE TRY AND TURN THIS INTO A *WIN!*

YOU WAGED A WAR THAT SET FRIEND AGAINST FRIEND! YOU PLAYED RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH THE *PLANET!*

"YOU LEFT WOUNDS THAT WILL TAKE YEARS TO HEAL, IF THEY EVER HEAL AT ALL."

AND YOU KILLED ONE OF THE FINEST MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

IF YOU CONSIDER THAT A WIN...

I *PITY* YOU. I REALLY DO.

LOOKING AT ALL THESE REPORTS OF NEW MUTANTS POPPING UP, WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU KNEW ALL ALONG THIS WOULD HAPPEN?

I DID THE MATH. THE NUMBERS NEVER ADDED UP. BETWEEN WANDA AND HOPE AND THE FIREBIRD, THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY VARIABLES.

NEW MUTANTS APPEARING WORLDWI

YET YOU WENT AND DID IT ANYWAY.

THERE'S STILL A CHANCE I COULD BE INSANE. IF I WAS INSANE, YOU'D TELL ME, RIGHT?

TONY STARK, MAN OF FAITH. WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

LAST NIGHT, OUT OF THE BLUE, A MAN IN CELL BLOCK B BEGAN VOMITING ACID. IT BURNED HIS CELL DOOR APART. HE VERY NEARLY ESCAPED.

THERE ARE ***NEW MUTANTS*** BEING BORN, AREN'T THERE?

SO I WAS ***RIGHT*** ABOUT THE PHOENIX. IT WASN'T HERE TO DESTROY US.

NO...

"ONLY ***YOU*** WERE."

WELL DONE, NOVA. YOU HANDLED YOURSELF ADMIRABLY IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE PHOENIX.

REALLY? I THOUGHT ALL I DID WAS...CRASH INTO THINGS REALLY HARD.

WE WOULD COUNT YOU AMONG OUR NUMBER--AS A MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS.

AN AVENGER--

WOW, OKAY.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO ASK MY ***MOM*** FIRST.

CHANGE NEVER COMES EASY. THERE WERE ALWAYS GOING TO BE SACRIFICES.

IF I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER, I WOULD, WITHOUT HESITATION.

IF ONLY IT WAS THAT SIMPLE. IF ONLY THE ENDS ALWAYS JUSTIFIED THE MEANS.

I'D SAY WE'RE ABOUT DONE HERE.

UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING ***YOU'D*** LIKE TO ADD?

NO.

I'VE GOT A ***EULOGY*** TO GIVE.

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT THE PHOENIX...

"THERE ALWAYS HAS TO BE *DESTRUCTION...*"

GOD, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

ING DER LD

NO TRESPASSING BY ORDER OF SHIELD

"BEFORE THE *REBIRTH.*"

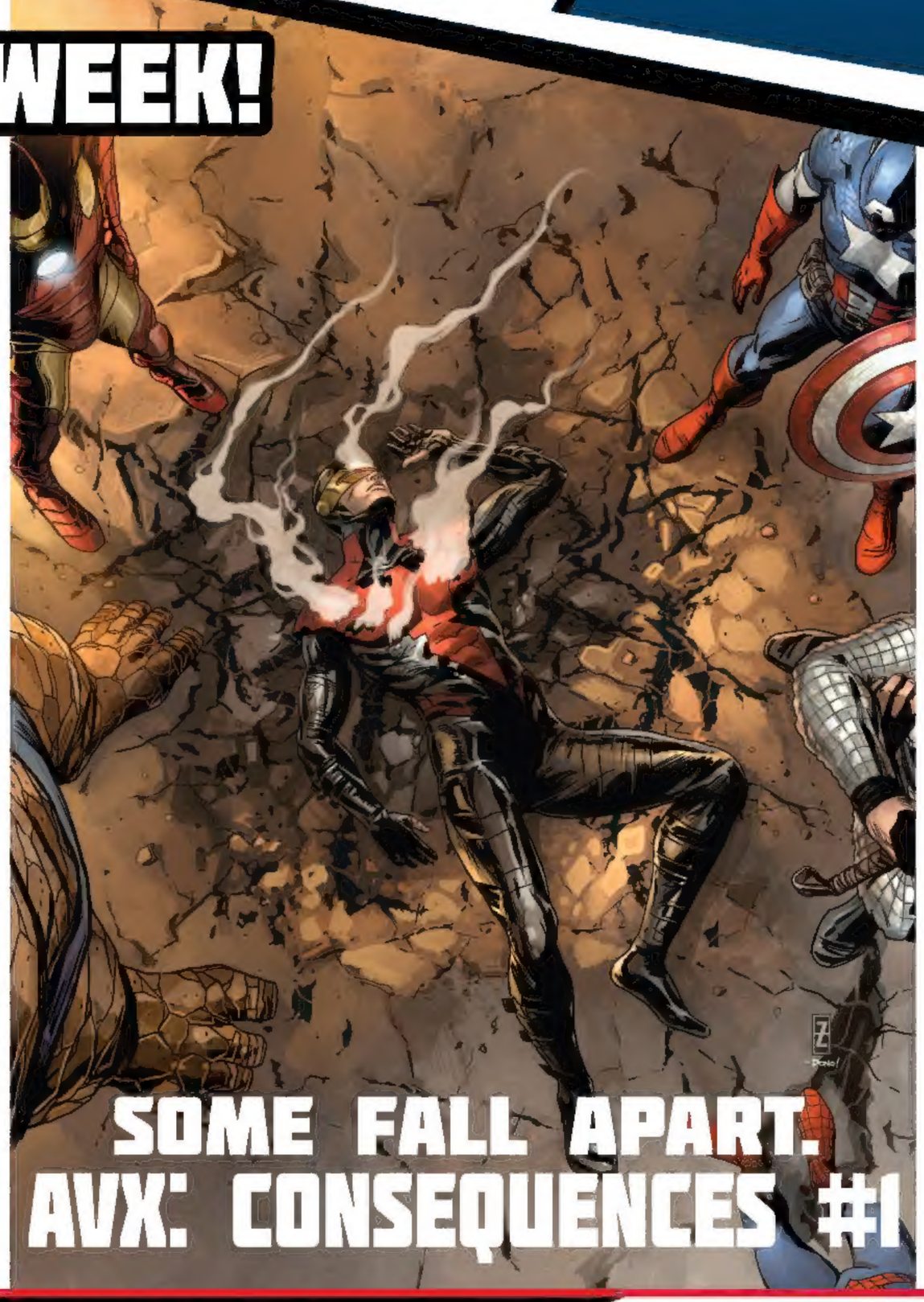
THE END

COMING OUT OF

AVX

NEXT WEEK!

SOME COME TOGETHER.
UNCANNY AVENGERS #1



SOME FALL APART.
AVX: CONSEQUENCES #1

AVENGERS VS X-MEN

MARVEL

AVX

ROUND 12

"There Can Only Be One."

OCTOBER 2012